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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Letter dated 28 November 1994 from the Permanent Representatives of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to enclose the Declaration of the Central American Ministers for Foreign Affairs concerning the situation of immigrants in the United States of America, signed at San Salvador on 25 November 1994.

We should be grateful if you would have the Declaration distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 100 (b).

(Signed) Fernando BERROCAL SOTO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Costa Rica

(Signed) Ricardo G. CASTANEDA-CORNEJO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of El Salvador

(Signed) Julio A. MARTINI HERRERA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Guatemala

(Signed) Gerardo MARTINEZ BLANCO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Honduras

(Signed) Erich VILCHEZ ASHER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Nicaragua

(Signed) Jorge E. ILLUECA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Panama

ANNEX

Declaration of the Central American Ministers for Foreign Affairs concerning the situation of immigrants in the United States of America, signed at San Salvador on 25 November 1994

The Central American Ministers for Foreign Affairs, having regard to the situation of Central American immigrants in the United States of America, declare:

Their firm conviction that Proposition 187 runs counter to the conclusions of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights of 1993 and the American Convention on Human Rights inasmuch as they, respectively, establish safeguards for the protection of immigrant workers and their families and recognize that the basic rights of the individual do not arise from the fact of being a national of a particular State but rather are based upon attributes of the human person;

Their profound concern over the approval of Proposition 187, which denies the basic rights of education and health to immigrants living in the State of California, thereby constituting a grave violation of the most basic human rights;

Their hope that Proposition 187 will remain suspended and without effect throughout the State of California because its application sets a precedent contrary to the norms of friendly relations between nations;

Their full confidence that the United States of America will continue to guarantee equal protection before the law for all persons living in that country, within the framework of the constitutional law, human rights and moral values which are part of that nation's traditions;

Their appeal for the American community of nations and civil organizations to continue to protest peacefully against the Proposition and to pursue the available legal remedies for blocking its implementation;

Their support for an extension by the Government of the United States of America of the Deferred Enforced Departure Programme, since ending the Programme would destabilize the Central American region and have adverse economic and social consequences.

DONE at San Salvador, Republic of El Salvador, on 25 November 1994.

(Signed) Fernando NARANJO
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Religion
Republic of Costa Rica

(Signed) Oscar Alfredo SANTAMARIA
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of El Salvador

(Signed) Ernesto PAZ AGUILAR
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Honduras

(Signed) Ernesto LEAL SANCHEZ
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Nicaragua

(Signed) Carlos RAMIRO MARTINEZ
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Guatemala

(Signed) Victor CUCALON
Acting Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Panama